

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02144

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, PLO, LE, IS
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: DECISION TO PERMIT RESUPPLY TO
PALESTINIANS

REF: A) USUN 2140, B) JERUSALEM 1473

1. UN SECRETARIAT (JONAH) CLARIFIED TO MISOFF ON
MAY 26 POSSIBLE DISCREPANCY IN UNNY INSTRUCTIONS TO
UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS ON PERMITTING RESUPPLY OF
NONMILITARY ITEMS TO PALESTINIANS BEHIND THE UN LINES.
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JONAH REPORTED THAT UNNY HAD JUST RECEIVED MESSAGE
FROM UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS AND "THE GENERALS" (PRESUMABLY
MEANING BOTH SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE) WERE NOW IN COMPLETE
AGREEMENT WITH UNNY INSTRUCTION TO PERMIT RESUPPLY
OPERATION TO PROCEED AS PART OF THREE-POINT PACKAGE
DEAL WITH PLO -- (A) NO INFILTRATION, (B) NO ARMED
HOSTILITIES, (C) FOODSTUFFS AND MEDICINE RESUPPLIED

TO PALESTINIAN POCKETS WHICH UN INSPECTS AND CONTROLS.

2. JONAH CONTINUED THAT UNDER SECRETARY GUYER WAS PERHAPS "VAGUE" IN HIS DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES AND AMB. LEONARD (USUN 2140). GUYER'S USE OF THE PHRASE "AD HOC BASIS" SHOULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN "INTERIM BASIS" ACCORDING TO JONAH. THE UN WILL ALLOW THE RESUPPLYING OF PALESTINIAN POCKETS UNTIL THE LEBANESE/PLO AGREEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED AT WHICH TIME THE PALESTINIANS IN POCKETS WOULD LEAVE THE UN ZONE.

3. UNNY NOW INTENDS TO INSTRUCT ERSKINE TO REQUEST FROM ARAFAT THE EXACT NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF PALESTINIANS THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED. UNNY IS AWARE, IN ADDITION TO GROUP OF 16 PALESTINIANS IN NORWEGIAN SECTOR, OF ANOTHER GROUP OF ABOUT 15 AROUND BARISH IN WESTERN UNIFIL AREA. ERSKINE WILL BE ASKED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF PLO'S ADDING NEW PERSONNEL BEFORE LISTS ARE PREPARED. JONAH CONJECTURED THAT THERE WERE PROBABLY A NUMBER OF SMALL GROUPINGS OF 5 OR 6 MEN SCATTERED FAIRLY WIDELY THROUGH THE UNIFIL AREA. THESE SMALL POCKETS OF PALESTINIANS WERE MOST LIKELY PROTECTING ARMS CACHES. THE UN, HAVING OBTAINED FROM ARAFAT LISTS OF NAMES OF PALESTINIANS
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AND THEIR LOCATIONS WOULD INSTRUCT UNIFIL HDQTRS TO ATTEMPT TO REGROUP THE MEN AFFECTED INTO LARGER "POCKETS", NOT UNLIKE A COMPOUND OVER WHICH UNIFIL WOULD MAINTAIN CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE UNTIL THE PALESTINIANS ARE WITHDRAWN ENTIRELY.

4. JONAH AND URQUHART, WHOSE JUDGMENT AND EXPERIENCE WE RESPECT, ARE SANGUINE THAT SHOULD THE ISRAELIS LEARN OF THE ARRANGEMENT, AND THEY OF COURSE WILL HEAR OF IT, IT CAN BE PRESENTED AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO ASSIST IN CONTROLLING PLO POCKETS IN UNIFIL AREA. IT SHOULD ADD AN ELEMENT OF SECURITY AND HELP TO EASE ISRAELI FEARS WITH REGARD TO PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION AND CONTINUING HOSTILITIES FROM WITHIN THE UNIFIL AREA. WE ARE OF COURSE HEARTENED TO LEARN THAT POSITIONS OF UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS AND UNNY TOWARD RESUPPLYING NOW SEEM TO COINCIDE. YOUNG

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